

May 2015 Newsletter

Office of Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco

Oficina de la Concejal Magdalena Carrasco

Eastside San José

PARA LEER ESTE BOLTÍN MENSUAL EN ESPAÑOL, FAVOR DE HACER CLIC [AQUI](#)



Dear Neighbor,

In honor of the up-coming May 10 holiday, I want to dedicate this newsletter to all the mothers and those who act as second mothers or surrogate mothers in our lives.

It is always a good idea to show appreciation to those who support, guide, and defend us. So before I go on I encourage you to call those people and tell them how much they mean to you. Mother's Day is a great reminder to say thank you for all that others have done for us.

And Mother's Day can remind us of something else: we all could approach our world with more of a mother's heart. You don't have to be a mom in order to do this. What I mean is that we can all take care of those around us, beyond our immediate families and friends, and view our community as something that should be approached with love and care, something we all should believe in and support. Because the world that we want to live in, that we all deserve, needs our help to create it, and that requires a little bit of sacrifice from each of us. In this way, we can all be community moms.

To that end, this newsletter will focus on the contribution of "community moms" - men, women, and children - and on the opportunities that exist for you to take on that role for your neighborhood. In fact, today, Wednesday 6, is exactly that kind of opportunity when we will be holding our District 5 Community meeting to discuss next year's City budget. [Check below](#) for more details.

I hope to see everyone at that important meeting tomorrow, but in the mean time, I want to say all the mothers, grandmothers, guardians, surrogate mothers, and community moms out there, I wish you a happy and safe Mother's Day!

Esther Mota Receives a Well Deserved Commendation

Tuesday, April 21st Councilmember Carrasco presented Esther Mota, a long time City employee, a commendation for 19 years of hard work, commitment, and sacrifice.

As a young girl Esther and her family worked the fields in North San José picking pear and plums. Her early humble experiences shaped her decision to want something better, not only for herself, but for others in the community. After graduating from high school, Esther entered San Jose State University, graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Recreation Administration.

Esther began working with the City of San José in 1995. She implemented and supervised many of the City's Youth Intervention Programs and the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Initiatives and some went on to become national models. These include the Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program, the Safe School Campus Initiative, Striving Towards Achievement with New Direction, (the STAND Program), the Hospital Intervention Program, and the Faith-Based and Youth Voice Initiative. During this time Esther also supervised collaborative efforts of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Technical Team that initiated first time partnerships between the City, San José Police Department, the County, various school districts, community based organizations, faith leaders, and community activists.

Esther has recently accepted the Crime Prevention Supervisor position with the San José Police Department. We know she is going to continue to do an exceptional job in her new assignment.



Great American Litter Pick Up 2015!

On Saturday, April 25th East Side residents, Councilmember Carrasco, and staff participated in the 15th Annual Great American Litter Pick Up. Parents and their children, couples, young adults, and high school students registered at one of the four East Side kick-off locations - Mt. Pleasant, James Lick High School, Dorsa Elementary School, and by the Sunset Ave Bridge - manned by staff to be a part of this national beautification project.

We provided volunteers with vests, litter sticks, and gloves so they could head out and fill their bags with trash. Common litter that was picked up were cigarette butts, paper, bottles, candy wrappers, fast food packaging, plastic straws, etc. In the Hillview area, volunteers found an injured bird. The City of San José's Animal Services arrived promptly to take the bird to the Wild Life Center. Once the bird is healed, he/she will be released into the Hillview neighborhood, close to where it was originally found.

Volunteers were treated to yummy continental breakfast to help them start off strong and a great lunch to restore their energy. We would like to thank our generous sponsors - Rotten Robbie, The California Apartment Association, Mexico Bakery, Calderon's Tires, Mi Pueblo

Food Center, and Kaiser Permanente. Their donations allowed us to provide this small token of thanks to our volunteers.

Litter continues to be a challenge for our City, but we all have the power to ensure that this stops being a problem. Littering is an activity children learn from adults. Unconsciously adults pass this behavior on because littering is the easiest way to get rid of things. And, once people see litter spread around, it becomes acceptable so they litter, creating a vicious cycle. So, all our everyday actions to walk to the garbage can or wait to throw things out when we get home can set a better example. And, while the community changes how it deals with trash, we all can come together to keep our neighborhoods, schools, and parks clean and healthy, just like these wonderful community members who helped to make their neighborhood the kind of place we'd all like to live.



Alum Rock Downtown College Prep wins National Samsung STEM Competition

I am so proud of the work our Downtown College Prep Alum Rock engineering students accomplished on their trip to New York. They submitted a "grey" water project, reusing shower and clothes washer water for the toilet or lawn watering, to the Samsung national Solve for Tomorrow STEM competition.

Out of hundreds of submissions for this prestigious award, they were the First Place Winners!

The DCP Alum Rock students recognized how important water is to our survival and decided to tackle a huge challenge for California: our wide-spread drought. They submitted a project to help their community achieve a 20% reduction in household water usage by installing a gray water system and rain water storage in a local home. Because their system is small and available at low cost, it can help our whole community. Check out their work here:

<http://www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow/project/california-dont-waste-a-drop.html>

A huge congratulations to these students and the parents and teachers who supported them: Sebastian Aguilar; Pedro Castillo; Maya Diaz; Michelle Duong; Vicky Parra; Paul Rocha; Jaime Sanchez; Nikola Sokol; and Esmerelda Yopez. You should all be so proud of what you've accomplished!



SJ Learns Works Summer Youth Employment Initiative

SJ Works is focused on increasing youth employment and expanding access to job training. The City is providing funding to encourage at-risk youth between the ages of 14 and 24 who live in neighborhoods that overlap with San José's identified gang hot-spots to find summer jobs. Together with the Santa Clara County-funded Summer Youth Employment Initiative, SJ Works will provide employment as well as job readiness, career advising and placement services for up to 1,000 youth. The County program-implemented by work2future Foundation-will provide 500 low-income 16 - 21 year olds throughout the County with a five-week work experience and job readiness program, prioritizing foster youth and youth from families receiving CalWORKS and CalFresh benefits.

A summer job for any young person can be the first step in the pathway to long-term success. For at-risk youth, investments in job-readiness and employment experiences can lead to the additional schooling and skill-building needed for career-track employment. Working in partnership with schools and community-based organizations, SJ Works will pilot new strategies to develop a scalable and sustainable system to deliver summer and after-school employment opportunities.

Students who want to learn more can go to www.work2futurefoundation.org/summer-jobs/. Those interested in applying can go to www.work2futurefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/SCCYouthWorks-Application-v2.pdf.

Spanish Language Spelling Bee @ Adelante

On April 22nd, I was so delighted to attend Adelante Dual Language Academy first Spanish only spelling bee, making them one of the first schools in the country to do so. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Claudia Candelas, a long-time East Side volunteer and graduate of San José State University, and she got to hear the children spell some of the toughest words in the Spanish language. The event was organized by Franklin Collazo, a parent of a fifth- and an eighth grader, and teacher Isabel Rivera, and had Viridiana Sanchez Cuevas, a

representative of the Mexican Consulate, in attendance as the Consulate continues to be a very proactive and engaged partner with our East San José students and recognizes how important it is for students to be bilingual.

A Spanish Spelling Bee sends a powerful message to our students from Spanish-speaking families. As our children grow accustomed to the norms of the US, they risk losing the language they hear and speak at home. Not only is this a cultural loss but it is proven in this diversifying nation that being bilingual can help you get and keep a great paying job. Our community is in dire need for bilingual doctors, engineers and scientists. We need to encourage students to be proud of their language and heritage.

I want to congratulate the participants, especially to the winner, 8th grader Jonathan Cortes. We are so proud of you all!



Calling all residents! - Community Budget Meeting

Please join us on WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 to learn more about the City of San Jose's Budget process. Mayor Liccardo and Councilmember Carrasco will be there to answer the community's questions. This is YOUR opportunity to learn how funds are allocated for different projects and initiatives throughout your city!

WHERE: 2039 Kammerer Ave (Mayfair Community Center, Chavez Hall)

WHEN: May 6, 2015 - 6 PM

WHO: All District 5 resident

WHY: To talk about what programs and services you want to see in your community

We hope to see you there!

Warm regards/*Cordial saludo*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magdalena Carrasco'.

Councilmember/*Consejal* Magdalena Carrasco

Día del Niño Proclamation

April is National Children's Month, the month in which we pay homage to children and recognizes their importance in society. Within Children's Month there is a Children's Day which is celebrated in Mexico and the United States on April 30. To honor San José's children, we led the City Council in proclaiming last Tuesday Día del Niño and were lucky to have a remarkable young woman come and accept the award on behalf of the City's children. Her name is Miriam Yamilet Pérez San Juan, a 5th grader of Mexican Ancestry growing up on the East Side and the 4th recipient of the Mexican Consulate's Consul for a Day Academic Excellence and Leadership Award.

She competed with other 5th grade students from 3 of San José's elementary schools and was selected from the 9 finalists because of her excellent essay on what Mexico means to her and her poised performance in a series of interviews with the Consulate staff.

Miriam, who wants to be a chef one day and who's favorite subject in school is writing, accepted the award from Vice Mayor Herrera and Councilmember Carrasco and was accompanied by her mother, two older siblings, and the Consul General of Mexico, Carlos Ponce Martínez. When she accepted the award she gave a short speech in Spanish in which she encouraged the children of San José to work hard in order to achieve their dreams.

The City of San José is proud to celebrate and support the children of our community, who will be the leaders of our next generation!

To see the Univision coverage of Miriam's day, [click here](#).



2015 Consul por Un Día

"On the Move with Mayor Sam Liccardo" at Mathson Institute of Technology

I want to thank Mayor Sam Liccardo and Silicon Valley Leadership Group CEO Carl Gaurdino for debuting the "On the Move with

Mayor Liccardo" campaign at Mathson Institute of Technology on the East Side. I am very excited that our Mayor's healthy living campaign stresses the importance of being active, fit, and living a healthier life for our teenagers and the greater community.

We were joined by Jorge Titinger, the CEO of SGI and Olympic Soccer Champion Brandi Chastain. At Mathson, I asked the students to make a pledge, that they be more physically active. Whether it was playing a game of pickup basketball, football or soccer or going for a hike or a jog around their neighborhood, this kind of physical activity is good for the body and the mind. Having active and healthier teenagers is important for our communities, and it's a great way for our young people to set a good example for their siblings, their parents, and even their grandparents!



With Brandi Chastain



Motivating the kids



With distinguished guests

East Side Public Safety Forum

Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco and Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez teamed up to provide an opportunity for their constituents to speak about their issues and concerns related to public safety, community, and neighborhood beautification. The meeting was held, April 6 at the Mexican heritage Plaza. The panel assembled to answer community questions included Supervisor Chavez, Councilmember Carrasco, Captain Anthony Mata, the new captain for Council District 5, and Supervising Santa Clara County District Attorney Chris Arriola.



Mata, Chavez, Arriola, and Carrasco

The offices of both Supervisor Chavez and Councilmember Carrasco has been receiving calls about the shift of Truancy Officers from East Side to South San José to deal with the increase of burglaries in the South San José neighborhoods. Captain Mata explained that the officers deployed to the south were officers who signed up for overtime assignments and that the officers assigned to East San José had remained the same.

In order to capture as many public comments as possible, Councilmember Carrasco and Supervisor Chavez arranged three methods for residents to provide input: an open question

and answer segment; five easels with top priority topics were set up throughout the room for constituents to write their comments, opinions, and questions; and cards listing various ways community members could volunteer to help ensure public safety of their neighborhoods were available. Easel topics were Illegal Dumping, Traffic, Neighborhood Crimes, Fireworks, and Other Concerns. The volunteer cards offered constituents the opportunity to organize a Neighborhood Watch Training in their neighborhood, attend a nearby Neighborhood Watch Training, learn how to remove graffiti, or sign up for one of our neighborhood litter pick-ups.

Given East San José's history of higher crime statistics than other areas, it was no surprise that the question and answer segment was very robust. Councilmember Carrasco, Supervisor Chavez, Captain Mata, and District Attorney Chris Areola answered questions as they were asked and also remained after the meetings to respond to questions from constituents.

Residents of East San José can expect these types of meetings and various types of outreach to continue because public safety remains at the top of Councilmember Carrasco's list of priorities. As long as the community continues to come together like they did for this meeting, this first forum bodes well for where the East Side can go.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CLEAN SLATE TATTOO REMOVAL PROGRAM IS ENROLLING

Are gang-related tattoos preventing you or someone you know from getting a job or moving ahead in life? The City of San José's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program is now enrolling youth, ages 14 - 25, who want to remove their gang-related tattoos.

The Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program provides free tattoo removal and lifestyle alternatives to ex-gang members between the ages of 14 - 25. The program removes gang-related tattoos on exposed areas of the body - such as the neck, hands, wrists, and face - in exchange for the participant's commitment to education, employment and community service activities. Participants must be San José residents and are required to attend a life skills support group and complete community service hours.

Qualifying individuals who are interested in enrolling into the program or residents who would like more information are encouraged to call the Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program office at (408) 794 -1660.

For details about the additional Youth Intervention Services, including the Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program, please visit www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/youthintervention.

CORRECTION

In our March Newsletter we introduced our 4 interns. Unfortunately, we accidentally misspelled the name of one of them. Our sincere apologies to Teddy Adera.

NOTARIO FRAUD WORKSHOPS COMING UP

The Santa Clara County District Attorney's office continues to hold their well-received and informative workshops on how to look into applying to President Obama's Deferred Action (DACA/DAPA).

Do you want to know if you qualify? Do you know all the requirements in order to apply?

The classes are free to the public. Get informed and avoid fraud and scams

Upcoming workshops:

- May 19 - 1460 The Alameda (Downtown College Prep) - 6 to 8 PM
- May 31 - 2040 Nassau Drive (Most Holy Trinity Church) - 12:30 to 2:30 PM

For more information, email jfuentes@da.sccgov.org.

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